

presence of small cancers up to 2 years before regular clinical breast examinations or breast self-examinations [BSE], reducing mortality by more than 30 percent.

Mr. President, the resolution I am submitting sets aside one day in the midst of "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month" to encourage women to receive or sign up for a mammogram. In doing so, we can educate our nation's mothers, sisters, and friends on the importance of early detection through mammography and prevent more women from dying from this disease. I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing mammograms as a key element in the fight against breast cancer.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1998

##### KENNEDY AMENDMENT NO. 3540

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 1301) to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for consumer bankruptcy protection, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

##### SEC. . FAIR MINIMUM WAGE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1998".

(b) MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE.—

(1) WAGE.—Paragraph (1) of section 6(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

"(A) \$5.65 an hour during the year beginning on January 1, 1999; and

"(B) \$6.15 an hour during the year beginning on January 1, 2000."

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) takes effect on January 1, 1999.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing entitled "The Safety of Food Imports: Fraud and Deception In The Food Import Process." This hearing is the third in a series of hearings the Subcommittee has scheduled as part of an in-depth investigation into the safety of food imports. The upcoming hearing will address specific fraud and deceptive techniques used by unscrupulous individuals to import food products illegally into the United States.

This hearing will take place on Thursday, September 10, 1998, at 9:30

a.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Timothy J. Shea of the Subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet in Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 3, 1998, to conduct a mark-up of H.R. 10, the Financial Services Act of 1998.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, September 3, 1998 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, September 3, 1998, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the nominations of Patricia Broderick, Neal Kravitz, and Natalia Combs Greene to be Associate Judges of the D.C. Superior Court.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 3, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a hearing on: "U.S. Counter-Terrorism Policy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, September 3, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on Department of Energy low level waste disposal practices.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### NEW WISCONSIN SAGE SCHOOLS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as children around the country head back to school this week, I come to the floor to speak about 44 Wisconsin schools with an extra reason to be excited on their first day of school this year. The students, teachers and parents at these 44 schools are excited because they are now participants in Wisconsin's suc-

cessful pilot program, the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education, known as the SAGE program. These 44 schools deserve congratulations and I want to recognize some of them here today on the Senate floor.

New SAGE participants include Giese Elementary School in Racine, McKinley Elementary School in Kenosha, Allen-Field Elementary School in Milwaukee, Chegwin Elementary School in Fond du Lac and many, many, more.

The new SAGE schools are spread throughout Wisconsin from LaCrosse in the east, to Sheboygan in the west, Ashland in the north and Madison in the south. They include schools in Wisconsin's most populous areas, such as, Milwaukee, Madison, Racine and Waukesha, and also, the rural communities of Winter, Kickapoo and Baraboo.

Mr. President, Wisconsin's SAGE program is a model for the nation in how to implement successful education reforms in our public schools, most importantly, reducing public school class size. I congratulate those in Wisconsin that have made the SAGE program possible for these additional twenty schools and take this opportunity to again alert my Senate colleagues to Wisconsin's innovative SAGE program.

Mr. President, for many years now, I have been a strong advocate of federal support for states that are trying to reduce class size in their schools. I have witnessed first-hand, how reducing class size enhanced the overall quality of education in Wisconsin's SAGE classes. Those participating in SAGE, teachers, parents, students and school administrators, report that student academic performance, student behavior and teacher morale all improved. In addition, comprehensive evaluations of Wisconsin's SAGE program have confirmed that small class size promotes effective teaching and learning.

Leading scientific studies of the impact of small class size, including Tennessee's STAR study and its follow-up, the Lasting Benefit study, found that students in small classes in their early years earned higher scores on basic skills tests in all four years and in all types of schools. Follow-up studies have shown that these achievement gains were sustained in later years, even if students go on to larger classes. Along with important factors in quality education like teacher quality, high expectations, and parental involvement, the significance of small class size should not be underestimated and cannot be ignored.

When asked about her experience as a kindergarten teacher at Webster Stanley Elementary School in Oshkosh, a new SAGE school, Lauren Flanagan said she noticed that she could visit with each table more frequently and the children listened and learned more readily. In addition, she said about the SAGE program, quote, "It just makes such a difference. I had a chance to visit schools around the state participating in the SAGE program, and what

I observed is that they were much further along in their curriculum. The students were much more advanced." end quote.

Mr. President, I have been so impressed with the success of the SAGE program that I introduced the National SAGE Act, legislation to offer grants to qualifying states to assist them in reducing public school class size in the earliest grades. The National SAGE Act authorizes \$75 million over five years to fund a limited number of demonstration grants to states that create innovative programs to reduce public school class size and improve educational performance, as Wisconsin has done. The Secretary of Education would choose the states to receive funding based on several factors, including a state's need to reduce class size, the ability of a state education agency to fund half the program, and the degree to which parents, teachers, administrators, and teacher organizations are consulted in designing the program.

The National SAGE Act is fully offset by cuts in a wasteful and unnecessary federal subsidy that benefits research and development for the world's largest aircraft manufacturer. We can fund this important SAGE program, while simultaneously reducing the federal budget deficit by more than \$2.1 billion over five years.

My legislation also includes a comprehensive research and evaluation component that would document the benefits of smaller class size in the earliest grades, and support efforts to reduce class size in schools all over the country.

I think we all can agree that there are no easy solutions to the problems in our public schools. I believe, however, that targeting federal funds, matched on a 50-50 basis with state funding, to assist school districts moving toward smaller class size, is an effective use of federal dollars. The federal government, in cooperation with local school boards and state governments, has a responsibility to take positive steps toward helping school districts reduce class size as a part of an overall effort to improve student learning. As we near the end of the 105th Congress, I hope my Senate colleagues will embrace SAGE as a serious and exciting reform effort and act to assist states trying to reduce public school class size.

Again, congratulations to the twenty new Wisconsin SAGE schools—you are off to a great start for a successful school year.●

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

● MR. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 2, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,566,129,223,474.84 (Five trillion, five hundred sixty-six billion, one hundred twenty-nine million, two hundred twenty-three thousand, four hundred seventy-four dollars and eighty-four cents).

One year ago, September 2, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,424,369,000,000

(Five trillion, four hundred twenty-four billion, three hundred sixty-nine million).

Five years ago, September 2, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,399,264,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred ninety-nine billion, two hundred sixty-four million).

Ten years ago, September 2, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,605,115,000,000 (Two trillion, six hundred five billion, one hundred fifteen million).

Fifteen years ago, September 2, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,358,215,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-eight billion, two hundred fifteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,207,914,223,474.84 (Four trillion, two hundred seven billion, nine hundred fourteen million, two hundred twenty-three thousand, four hundred seventy-four dollars and eighty-four cents) during the past 15 years.●

#### NASHVILLE PILOTS COMPLETE HISTORIC JOURNEY

● MR. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I want to share with the Senate a courageous story about two female Tennesseans who recently succeeded in their quest to retrace a historic flight around the world.

Nikki Mitchell and Rhonda Miles landed their single-engine Maule M-5 plane at the Lebanon, Tennessee airport on Saturday, August 22, 1998. Their trip, dubbed the "Bridge of Wings Tour," was completed 49 days after they took off from the same airport.

Their flight commemorates the historical achievement of three female Russian pilots. That journey, known as the "Flight of the Rodina," was a story of courage and stamina in the tradition of Lindbergh and Earhart. It took place in 1938, when the three Russians flew non-stop from Moscow to the southeastern tip of Siberia.

The Russian pilots flew with virtually no radio transmission, through skies so overcast no landmarks were visible, yet they broke a world record and opened up the route across Siberia. They were cheered worldwide and received their country's highest award, the Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Sixty years later, Nikki and Rhonda celebrated the accomplishments of the Rodina on the anniversary of its flight. A portion of their 15,000 mile trip included retracing the steps of the three Soviet women from Moscow to the southeastern tip of Siberia. And for this leg of the route they were joined by two Russian women who flew their plane side by side with the American aircraft in a unified flight of honor and goodwill.

As they flew over Russian territory, Nikki and Rhonda were met by crowds and cheers in villages across the Russian Far East. The level of excitement was such that a commercial airline canceled a flight so its fuel could be used for the continuation of their flight.

Before returning to Tennessee, Nikki and Rhonda were also warmly wel-

comed in Alaska, Canada, and Des Moines, Iowa. It goes without saying that upon arrival in Lebanon, Tennessee, they were given a welcome fit for heroes.

Nikki and Rhonda, dressed in blue flight suits and holding flowers, couldn't contain their excitement as they stepped out of the plane. Nikki showed how happy she was to be back in the Volunteer State by immediately kissing the Tennessee soil. Also thankful to be home, Rhonda could not stop smiling as friends rushed to greet her.

Mr. President, I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in saluting Nikki and Rhonda for their courageous journey. These Tennesseans have recreated one of history's most daring and remarkable flights. Their trip will always be remembered as an international effort to honor one of aviation's most exciting moments. I have no doubt that the example set by these women will inspire others to strive toward achieving their own ambitions and goals.●

#### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

● MR. KYL. Mr. President, yesterday, I led an effort during consideration of the FY99 foreign operations appropriations bill to tighten the conditions under which additional funding is made available to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Although the bill included provisions to prod the IMF into making badly needed reforms of its operations, it stopped short of actually requiring the implementation of those reforms. Instead, it merely conditioned the release of funds on the IMF making a public commitment to reform. That, in my view, was not good enough.

The IMF has not effectively used the funds that have been allocated to it in the past. According to Johns Hopkins University economist, Steve Hanke, few nations have actually graduated from IMF emergency loans. Most have stayed on the dole for years on end. One study found that, of the 137 mostly developing countries from 1965 to 1995, less than a third graduated from IMF loan programs.

The Heritage Foundation has found that, of the IMF's borrowers during 1965 to 1995, no more than half were better off than when they started the loan programs. Almost all were actually poorer, and almost all were deeper in debt.

The IMF's failures are apparent even today. Just a few months ago, the IMF orchestrated a \$22.6 billion bailout package for Russia, yet that country's economy shows no signs of improving. In fact, it is growing worse every day. And all of the experts agree that, unless Russia establishes the kind of rules of law required for a functioning economy, all the money in the world will not help it. We would be fooling ourselves to think otherwise.